

Dear Mr. Sklar,

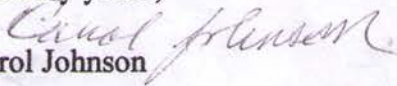
May 12, 2006

I am sending something that I would like to share with you and also hope will meet your approval. Enclosed you will find an article from our local paper about a coalition of Iowa farms that market organic meat products. I was very excited to see this as our son Matt insists that we eat according to your recommendations. That has been challenging as we genuinely enjoy meat. Matt has explained your position on red meat, specifically beef to us. He says you object to the hormones and antibiotics given to animals and the current practice of raising animals in feed lots. I think that this group addresses many of the issues that you have with beef and other meat products. (I realize also that it is healthier to include a wider variety of protein such as tofu in our diet and to not rely entirely upon animal sources.) I haven't yet had a chance to try their product as this article just came out yesterday but I thought you might like to know that organic does indeed exist here.

Matt greatly enjoyed attending the June workshop last year, so much so that he will be back this June. We decided to send him again for a variety of reasons. The workshop definitely influenced Matt in many positive ways. Matthew is much more focused, his grades are better, straight A's. He was invited and joined the National Honor Society. He was invited and became a speaker for CCDC, an organization that promotes healthy choices, no drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and premarital sex. Matt is more vocal, not afraid to speak out to either help organize a group or throw out a funny comment. He has co-directed a play as well as having added his comments to the choreography and getting into character, in plays that he has been in at school (although he wasn't officially directing). He worked very hard on his presentation as part of the speech team and was able to go to state competition.

Thank-you for 'listening' to me. We appreciate all you do for the children and for the opportunity that you have opened up to Matt.

Sincerely yours,


Carol Johnson